

1 [Making TAY a Priority Population]

2 **Resolution urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to continue to acknowledge and**
 3 **prioritize the unmet needs of Transitional Age Youth, and to make Transitional Age Youth a**
 4 **priority population for the City & County of San Francisco through the issuance of a Mayoral**
 5 **Policy Declaration.**

6
 7 WHEREAS, As of 2006, there were 80,000 transitional aged youth (TAY), defined as those
 8 persons between the ages of 16 and 24, living in San Francisco;¹ and

9 WHEREAS, While many of these youth will make a smooth transition into adulthood and obtain
 10 jobs and housing, 5-10% of this population—or between 5,000 and 8,000 young people—will not, and
 11 are at risk of becoming homeless, jobless or involved with the criminal justice system;² and

12 WHEREAS, In 2005 the Youth Commission adopted a resolution urging the Mayor to ordain a
 13 Transitional Age Youth Task Force to “address the needs” of TAY, to which then-Mayor Gavin
 14 Newsom positively responded;³ and

15 WHEREAS, After a year of intensive, collaborative work between City officials, community-
 16 based service providers, and TAY themselves, in October 2007 the Mayor’s Transitional Youth Task
 17 Force released its report, *Disconnected Youth in San Francisco: A Roadmap to Improve the Life*
 18 *Chances of San Francisco’s Most Vulnerable Young Adults*, which contained 16 comprehensive
 19 recommendations for City agencies “to address the problem of the current fragmented policies and
 20 programs, with a comprehensive, integrated approach towards disconnected transitional age youth;”⁴
 21 and

22 _____
 23 ¹ *Disconnected Youth in San Francisco: A Roadmap to Improve the Life Chances of San Francisco’s Most*
 24 *Vulnerable Young Adults* (2007), Mayor’s Transitional Youth Task Force, City & County of San Francisco, page
 25 9, <http://www.heysf.org/download/TYTF%20final%20report.pdf>.

² Ibid.

³ Youth Commission Resolution 0405—005, “Resolution urging the Mayor to Ordain a Transitional Youth Task
 Force.”

⁴ *Disconnected Youth in San Francisco* (2007), page 5.

1 WHEREAS, The Mayor's Transitional Youth Task Force report was very specific in defining
2 those 16-24 year olds who are most at risk of not making a successful transition to adulthood, and who
3 the City's TAY policies should therefore prioritize—namely, youth who have had contact with public
4 systems (foster care, juvenile justice, criminal justice, public housing, child support services or special
5 education); youth who are academically off-track or have dropped out of high school; youth who are
6 homeless; youth who have a disability or another special need; or youth who are young, unmarried
7 parents;⁵ and

8 WHEREAS, The Transitional Age Youth Initiative—San Francisco, the City initiative that was
9 created to follow up on the implementation of the 16 policy recommendations contained in the 2007
10 Mayor's Transitional Youth Task Force report, has further specified that immigrant youth and Lesbian,
11 Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQQ) youth are also among the most
12 vulnerable TAY, and thus should also be prioritized by the City along with the TAY described above;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Too many TAY in San Francisco are in crisis; for example, 5,700 youth are
15 homeless, 6,000 18-24 year-olds lack a high school diploma, 5,000 16-24 year-olds are completely
16 uninsured, and 7,000 18-24 year-olds neither work nor go to school;⁶ and

17 WHEREAS, The City has a strong moral obligation to prioritize helping those TAY described
18 above, because it is these TAY who are at the greatest risk of becoming disconnected from education,
19 employment, housing and healthcare; and

20 WHEREAS, Several City departments, including the Mayor's Office of Housing, the
21 Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, the Office of Economic and Workforce
22 Development, the Department of Public Health, the Adult Probation Department, the Juvenile
23 Probation Department and the Human Services Agency have made strong investments in TAY

24 ⁵ Ibid, page 4.

25 ⁶ *Progress Report 2011, Transitional Age Youth—San Francisco*, page 2,
http://www.heysf.org/download/taysfpublications/TAYSF_Progress_Report.pdf.

1 following the recommendations outlined in the 2007 Mayor’s Transitional Youth Task Force report, and
2 the Youth Commission roundly commends these investments; and

3 WHEREAS, By the same token, the City has never implemented the first recommendation of
4 the Mayor’s Transitional Youth Task Force report—namely, the issuance of a Mayoral Policy
5 Declaration that would “declare that it is City policy to help disconnected youth achieve a successful
6 transition to adulthood and into the work force;”⁷ now, therefore, be it,

7 RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Mayor to issue a Mayoral Policy
8 Declaration prioritizing TAY, as outlined in the 2007 Mayor’s Transitional Youth Task Force report, so
9 that all City departments will reprioritize TAY in their work; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges Mayor and Board of Supervisors and all youth-
11 serving City departments to strengthen their efforts at implementing the sixteen recommendations laid
12 out in the 2007 Transitional Youth Task Force report.

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LEAH LACROIX

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2011-2012 YOUTH COMMISSION CHAIR

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ADOPTED BY YOUTH COMMISSION

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JANUARY 9, 2012

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⁷ *Disconnected Youth in San Francisco (2007)*, page 5.